

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 250942Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6656

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USUN NEW YORK 1026

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8591

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CB, PLOS

SUBJECT: GKR CREDENTIALS AT 29 TH UNGA

1. SUMMARY. AT HIS REQUEST I MET WITH GKR FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS JUNE 24. DCM ALSO PRESENT. I RAISED A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, WHICH ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTELS. LIM'S PRIMARY CONCERN WAS OVER THE GKR'S PROSPECTS IN THE CREDENTIALS FIGHT ANTICIPATED FOR THE 29TH UNGA. THE GKR'S BOX-SCORE ON THE PROBABLE OUTCOME HAS MADE THEM DISCOURAGED. THEY ARE THEREFORE LOOKING AROUND FOR SOME WAY TO RESCUE THE SITUATION, AND HAVE NATURALLY TURNED TO US. LIM SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS AN APPROACH TO THE CHINESE WOULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY AND THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO VOTE TO DEFER THE ISSUE. I SPIKED THAT IDEA RIGHT AWAY AND MADE A COUNTER-SUGGESTION THAT THE GKR IMPROVE ITS CASE BY ISSUING A HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT, AT THE RIGHT TIME AND IN THE RIGHT PLACE, OFFERING TO TALK TO THE OTHER SIDE ANYTIME, ANY PLACE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. THE OTHER SIDE WOULD SURELY REFUSE AND WOULD BEAR THE ONUS OF BEING INTRANSIGENT AND UNREASONABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. LIM, WHO HAD JUST BEEN CONFERRING THE PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET, ASKED FOR OUR BOX-SCORE ON THE PROBABLE

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VOTING AT THE 29TH UNGA ON THE QUESTION OF DEFERRING

THE GKR CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE, I DEFLECTED HIS QUERY BY SAYING THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A BOX-SCORE, AS THE POSITIONS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVEN'T HARDENED YET. (I FEARED NEGATIVE COUNT BY US WOULD SIMPLY CONFIRM THE GKR'S GLOOM AND CAUSE THEM TO GIVE UP.) LIM THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT ACCORDING TO THEIR COUNT THE GKR WAS BEHIND BY 9 TO 11 VOTES ON THE POSTPONEMENT QUESTION. HE ASKED WHAT WE, THE USG, COULD DO TO PREVENT A SETBACK.

3. LIM THEN OFFERED HIS OWN SUGGESTION, HE SAID THE KEY TO THE SITUATION WOULD APPEAR TO LIE IN CHINA, AND THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT THE XPULSION OF HIS GOVERNMENT FROM THE UN WOULD BE TO CREATE THE IPMPRESSION THAT NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT WERE UNDERWAY. I RESPONDED WITH SOME SHARPNESS THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS TO TRY TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT NEGITIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY WHEN THEY REALLY WEREN'T, AS THIS COULD BACKFIRE BADLY. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS GETTING UNDERWAY IN TIME TO AFFECT THE UNGA OUTCOME, I SAID THAT WOULD DEPEND ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, ON THE MILITARY BALANCE WITHIN CAMBODIA. I SAID THAT EVERY PARTY SHOULD DO WHAT IS IN ITS POWER TO DO. TALKING TO THE CHINESE IS NOT WITHIN THE POWER OF THE GKR, BUT THERE WERE OTHER THINGS THEY COULD DO THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. FIRSTLY, I SAID, THE GKR SHOULD CONTINUE THE PRESENT FAVORABLE TREND IN THE MILITARY FIELD, BY KEEPING ITS FORCES ON THE INITIATIVE AND MAKING STEADY PROGRESS AGAINST THE ENEMY. SECONDLY, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME AND IN AN APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT, THE GKR COULD ISSUE A SOLEMN DECLARATION, AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, SETTING FORTH ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. SUCH A STATEMENT COULD DECLARE THE GKR'S WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH THE OTHER SIDE ANYTIME, ANYPLACE, AND INSTEAD OF HAVING IT A PRECONDITION FOR SUCH TAKS THAT ALL FOREIGN FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE COUNTRY, THE STATEMENT COULD SET THIS AS A HOPED-FOR RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE KHMER TO RESOLVE

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THEIR PROBLEMS BY THEMSELVES. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR THE UNGA FIGHT, I SAID, AND IT WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS WILLING TO SUPPORT AND/OR LOBBY FOR THE GKR. THE ONUS WOULD THEN FALL ON THE OTHER SIDE FOR THE FAILURE OF TALKS TO TAKE PLACE.

5. LIM SAID HE AGREED ENTIRELY ABOUT THE UTILITY OF SUCH A STATEMENT, AND HE WAS PREPARED TO MAKE SUCH

A STATEMENT HIMSELF NOW. I SAID THAT THE RIGHT TIME AND THE RIGHT OCCASION HAD TO BE CHOSEN CAREFULLY, AND THE STATEMENT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE MADE AT THE RIGHT LEVEL. A PRE-DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER RIGHT NOW WOULD NOT SERVE THE PURPOSE.

6. COMMENT: LIM, CLEARLY SPEAKING FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN OVER THE SERIOUS INTERNAL POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM AN UNFAVORABLE OUTCOME AT THE UNGA. THEIR COUNT OF THE VOTES SEEMS TO GET WORSE EACH TIME THEY MAKE ONE (LAST WEEK LIM ESTIMATED THEY WERE 5 OR 6 VOTES BEHIND). I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY NOT THROW IN THE SPONGE PERMATURELY OR THE OUTCOME WILL BE SETTLED NEGATIVELY, AND LONG BEFORE IT NEEDS TO BE, BY THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO CARRY ON. A DEFEAT AT THE LOS CONFERENCE WOULD OF COURSE CAUSE FURTHER DISCOURAGEMENT, AND MUST THEREFORE BE AVOIDED AT ALL COST.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM08591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740166-0973
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740616/aaaaancb.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GKR CREDENTIALS AT 29 TH UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, CB, UN, (KEUKY LIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005